

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 SAM-01

OMB-01 DHA-02 /097 W

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R 091440Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9683

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION GENEVA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, ELAB, IS

SUBJECT: ICFTU SEC GENERAL KERSTEN IN ISRAEL

1. ICFTU SECRETARY GENERAL OTTO KERSTEN VISITED ISRAEL
JANUARY 6-8 AS GUEST OF HISTADRUT AND RECEIVED VIP TREAT-
MENT, INCLUDING MEETING WITH PRIME MINISTER RABIN.

2. AT PRESS CONFERENCE KERSTEN DECLARED THAT ICFTU WOULD
GIVE UP ITS CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UN AND ILO SHOULD
ISRAEL BE EXPELLED FROM UNGA. HOWEVER, HE DISAPPOINTED
HIS HOSTS BY ARGUING THAT ISRAEL SHOULD SHOW GREATER
FLEXIBILITY TOWARD PALESTINIAN ISSUE AND RECOGNIZE PLO.
HE ALSO CRITICIZED AFL-CIO FOR REJECTING RECOGNITION OF
PLO AS REPRESENTATIVE ORGANIZATION OF PALESTINIANS.

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3. HISTADRUT LEADERS FELT THAT HIS PUBLIC OFFER TO GIVE UP UN AND ILO CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITHOUT PRIOR MANDATE FROM ICFTU EXECUTIVE HAD LITTLE MEANING AND ASKED WHY ICFTU HAD NOT ALREADY ACTED BY RENOUNCING ITS CONSULTATIVE STATUS WITH UNESCO, WHICH DEALS WITH SPECIFIC SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS OF DIRECT INTEREST TO LABOR MOVEMENTS. THEY WERE ALSO DISAPPOINTED OVER KERSTEN'S AVOIDANCE OF DISCUSSING SPECIFIC JOINT TACTICAL MEASURES IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXT ILO GOVERNING BOARD MEETING WHICH HAS QUESTION OF LABOR AND HUMAN RIGHTS IN ISRAELI OCCUPIED TERRITORIES ON AGENDA.

4. COMMENT: WHILE HISTADRUT CONTINUES TO LOOK UPON ICFTU AS ALLY AND POTENTIALLY USEFUL FORUM FOR CONTACTS AND COOPERATION WITH EUROPEAN AND THIRD WORLD UNIONS AND ILO, ITS LEADERS ARE SENSITIVE TO GROWING MANIFESTATIONS SUCH AS KERSTEN'S COMMENTS ON PLO, THAT PRO-ISRAELI COMMITMENT OF WESTERN TRADE UNION COMMUNITY IS ERODING. HISTADRUT IS ALSO KEENLY CONSCIOUS THAT STATUS OF THE EUROPEAN TRADE UNION FEDERATION, CONSISTING NOT ONLY OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC, BUT ALSO CHRISTIAN AND COMMUNIST UNIONS, AND THUS MORE NEUTRAL IN MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT, IS STEADILY INCREASING AT EXPENSE OF ICFTU.
DUNNIGAN

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